

THE MILITANT

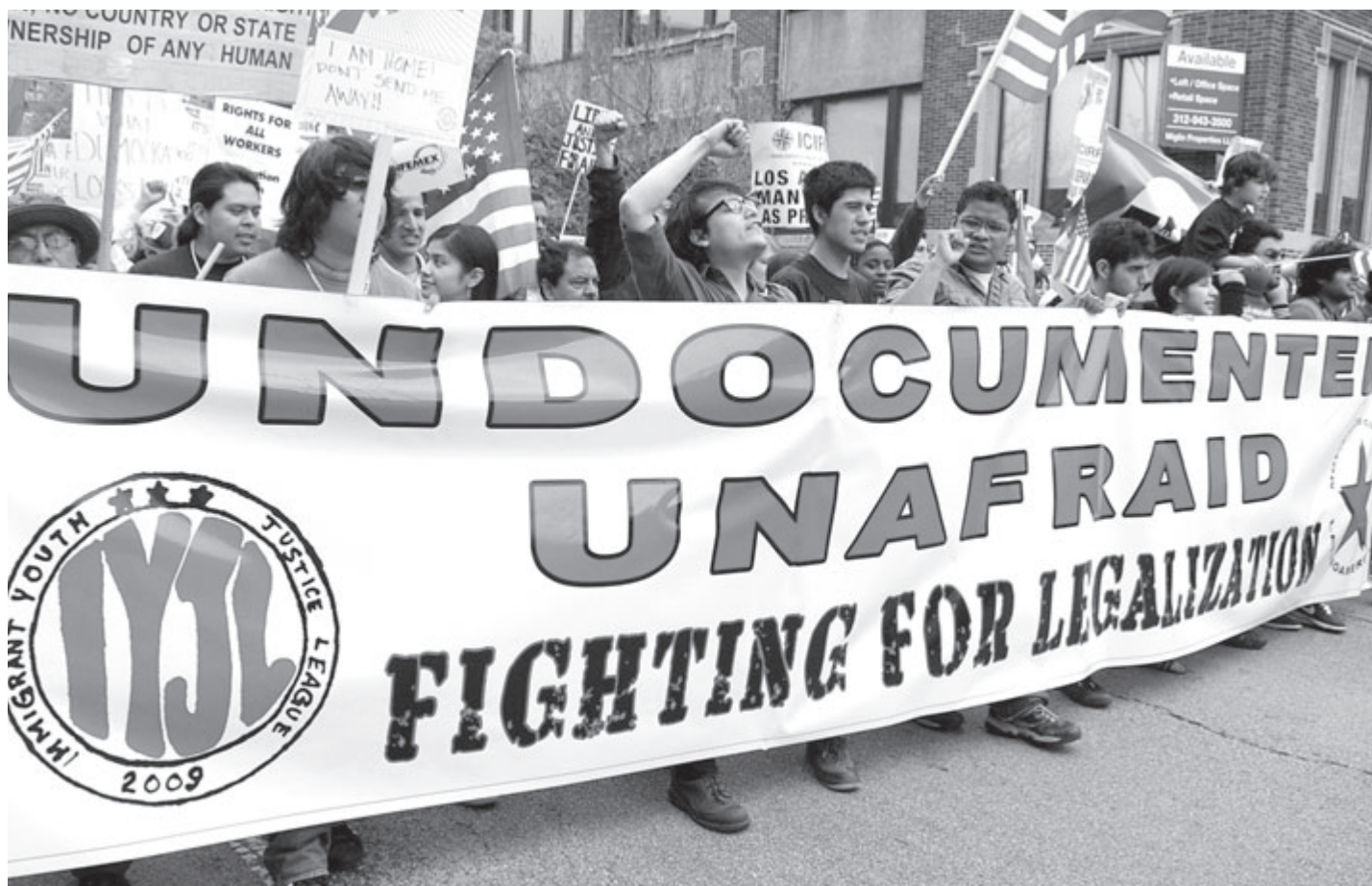
INSIDE
Malcolm X's evolving views
on Black nationalism
 —PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 74/NO. 19 MAY 17, 2010

Quarter million marchers demand immigrant rights

Phoenix rally: 'We don't run! We will stay!'



May Day demonstration in Chicago of some 30,000 people demanding legalization of undocumented immigrants

Militant/Jorge Lertora

BY BETSEY STONE

PHOENIX—Some quarter million people demonstrated in at least 100 cities and towns across the United States May 1 to protest attacks on undocumented and other immigrant workers and to demand an end to

raids and deportations.

The May Day protests, which had been planned for months, were larger than expected, fueled by opposition to Arizona's anti-immigrant law SB 1070, which was signed by Gov. Janice Brewer here April 23. These are

the largest May 1 immigrant rights protests since 2007.

Here in Phoenix some 15,000 people, possibly as many as 20,000, in their big majority Latino workers, rallied and marched around the Capitol from morning until well after dark.

Hand-lettered signs held high by demonstrators expressed their determination to stand up to the attacks. They included, "We do not run! We are not criminals! We stay in Arizona!" "Here to stay," "If you mess with one bean, you'll get the whole burrito," and "Lost a battle, not the war."

SB 1070 makes it a crime under

Continued on page 6

Greek government announces harsh cuts for public workers

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS, Greece—The Greek government announced a new round of severe austerity measures against working people as part of an agreement reached with the European Union (EU) and International Monetary Fund (IMF). The agreement

provides Greece with \$147 billion in loans over the next three years to cover debt payments to wealthy bondholders.

Greece has a public debt of about \$400 billion, more than the country's gross domestic product. Its budget deficit is at least 13.6 percent of GDP. Standard and Poor's rating agency has reduced Greek treasury bonds to junk status.

Finance Minister George Papakonstantinou said Greece "will be in recession for the next few years," reported the *New York Times*.

Nearly 100,000 people marched in central Athens May 5, the day of a 24-hour general strike called by public and private sector unions.

"Twice as many people are participating in today's strike as did in last month's," said Kyriakos Zolobos, an airport cargo worker who was marching with his union contingent. "People have been faced with austerity for

Continued on page 4

Readership drive poised to exceed int'l goal

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

With the strong response to the *Militant* and the new book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* at May Day rallies for immigrant rights across the United States, *Militant* supporters are set to go substantially over the 2,000 international subscription goal in the final week of the drive. At the

Continued on page 4

Gulf oil spill poses social disaster

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

HOUSTON, May 4—A major disaster affecting the Gulf of Mexico and beyond is unfolding in the wake of the April 20 explosion on a BP-leased oil rig off the Louisiana coast. The explosion killed 11 workers and left breaches that continue to spew massive quantities of oil 5,000 feet below the ocean surface.

The scope of the damage threatens to surpass the 1989 Exxon Valdez tanker spill, which continues to affect wildlife populations and will take decades to fully dissipate, according to a 2009 report by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

According to the Coast Guard, the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon rig had as of May 2 sent 1.6 million gallons of oil into the ocean. But unlike the Exxon Valdez disaster that released 10.8 million gallons of oil, there is no clear end in sight. "All that is preventing the free flow of oil—which could amount to tens of millions of gallons—is the kinked riser pipe, which is springing leaks," reported the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Attorneys for some of the workers on the rig, fishermen, and environmental groups reported May 3 a series of unsafe actions by BP that made this disaster far more likely, the *New York Times* reported.

The attorneys said according to one worker, the company was drilling deeper than 22,000 feet into the seabed, even though its permit prohibited going deeper than 20,000 feet. Another said that to save money, BP decided against installing a deep-water valve under the sea floor that could be used to shut off the oil flow if there were

Continued on page 3

Two young workers are killed in nonunion Kentucky mine

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Two coal miners were killed in a roof collapse at the nonunion Dotiki mine in western Kentucky April 28. Their deaths come three weeks after 29 miners lost their lives in a massive explosion at Massey Energy-owned Upper Big Branch Mine in Montcoal, West Virginia, and two days after miner Jama Jarrett died, after being crushed by equipment in another West Virginia mine.

Those killed at the Dotiki mine are Justin Travis, 27, and Michael Carter, 28. The mine is operated by Webster

Continued on page 2

Also Inside:

Oklahoma State gov't enacts antiabortion laws	2
UK communist candidate: 'Can't reform banks to be fair'	3
Australia dockworkers protest deaths on job	5
Cuban government pays tribute to slave revolt	5

Oklahoma State gov't enacts antiabortion laws

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Overriding the governor's veto, the Oklahoma legislature approved two laws April 27 placing further obstacles to a woman's right to choose abortion.

One law requires a woman to undergo an ultrasound an hour or less before a scheduled abortion. She must then be shown a screen depicting the image and hear an explanation from the doctor about the fetus, including whether arms, legs, and internal organs are visible, and about heart activity.

The second law prevents women from seeking damages if physicians withhold information or provide them with inaccurate information about the health of the fetus.

Oklahoma's ultrasound measure is one of the strictest in the nation. There are 13 other states that have sonogram requirements, according to the Guttmacher Institute. But only in Oklahoma are women forced to see a computer monitor of the image and hear a speech about it.

Hours after its enactment, the Center for Reproductive Rights filed a lawsuit against the ultrasound measure. "The law forces a woman to hear information that she may not want to hear and that may not be relevant to her medical care," stated a press release from the group.

"Not one patient would look at the screen and they all closed their eyes or turned their heads," Linda Meek, director of Reproductive Services in Tulsa, one of the three abortion clinics in Oklahoma, told ABC news about the new law's immediate impact. "But it's hard to turn your ears off. Several of the

patients were in tears afterwards. No one changed their mind."

On May 3 an Oklahoma County district judge temporarily halted enforcement of the law and scheduled a court hearing on it for July 19.

Earlier this year, Oklahoma governor Bradford Henry signed two other antiabortion measures into law. One requires clinics to post signs saying that a woman cannot be forced to have an abortion, and another makes abortions based on the fetus's gender illegal.

Also making its way through Oklahoma's legislature are two other restrictive laws. One would force women to fill out a lengthy questionnaire about why they are seeking an abortion. Another restricts insurance coverage for the procedure.

Two workers killed in nonunion Kentucky mine

Continued from front page

County Coal, a subsidiary of Alliance Resource Partners of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The company, which employs 367 workers, has received nearly 3,000 safety violation citations from the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) since 2005, with 968 of them considered "significant and substantial."

In 2009 the mine owners were cited 649 times. For the first four months of this year Dotiki bosses were written up 214 times. In its latest inspection at the end of March, MSHA reported at least 10 violations of federal roof-control standards, reports the *Charleston Gazette*.

In another development, the United

Washington State Teamsters strike for 2 days



Militant/Cecelia Moriarity

SEATTLE—Some 450 members of Teamsters Local 174, who transport waste in the metropolitan area here, went on strike April 21 for two days. They were protesting Waste Management's refusal to provide the same level of medical benefits to employees and retirees as those won in contracts with other area waste-hauling companies. A new five-year agreement was ratified May 2.

—CECELIA MORIARITY

Mine Workers of America (UMWA) will play a role in the investigation into the Upper Big Branch Mine explosion. At least two miners requested that the union represent them in the probe even though the mine is non-union. No one will gain access to the mine for at least a month because of the dangerous conditions there.

Congressional hearings were held April 27 on the Upper Big Branch Mine disaster. Among those providing testimony critical of the company was Jeff Harris, a miner and former Massey employee. "I quit my job with Massey because I couldn't take

the poor conditions in the mine," he stated. "Nobody should have to fear for their life just to earn a paycheck."

In a statement Massey said that it had won three safety awards from MSHA last year and claimed its accident record was better than the average underground mine.

In 2006, 12 miners were killed in an explosion at the Sago Mine in West Virginia. The following year MSHA "added 10 criteria that inspectors had to meet before a mine could be shut down for a 'pattern of violations,'" reported Bloomberg News.

New Jersey students protest cuts

BY SUSAN ANMUTH

NEWARK, New Jersey—Some 2,000 students marched out of Newark high schools at noon on April 27 to protest projected New Jersey education cuts of \$820 million. An estimated 18,000 students demonstrated across the state.

Armon Walker from Irvington High School said his principal forbade students to walk out, but Walker and seven friends did so anyway. Asked what might happen when they return, he shrugged his shoulders and said,

"We have the right to protest."

Amanda Carey, in 11th grade at East Side High School, explained, "I personally walked out because Chris Christie's budget cuts will lead to the closing of our school clubs. It's about time our voices were heard above everybody else's." Christie is the governor of New Jersey.

Demonstrators carried handwritten signs reading, "Our futures are on the line," "Christie out, teachers in," and "I bet you Governor C.C. likes his breakfast," referring to the proposed elimination of school breakfast programs.

THE MILITANT

End war in Afghanistan, Pakistan!

The U.S.-led offensive against the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan is claiming an accelerating number of lives, despite Washington's efforts to disguise civilian victims as 'insurgents.' Keep up with the news in the pages of the 'Militant.'



Afghans gather around bus NATO troops shot at April 12 in Kandahar.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

UK communist: ‘Can’t reform banks to be fair’

BY PETE CLIFFORD

EDINBURGH, Scotland—“Look at Greece and Portugal. The capitalist class has no solution other than massive cuts like those being planned there,” said Caroline Bellamy, Communist League candidate for Parliament in the United Kingdom. “They can’t reform banking to make it ‘fair.’ It’s part of the capitalist system that exists to make profits at our expense. This is why the Communist League’s campaign centers on the capacity of working people to take political power and end this system.”

Bellamy, the Communist League candidate for Edinburgh South West constituency, was speaking to a crowd of 70 at a candidates debate April 29 in Sighthill, a working-class area of Edinburgh.

“We’re looking beyond election day May 6,” explained Bellamy. “None of the employers’ parties will do anything other than try to solve the crisis on the backs of working people. We, on the other hand, will join the inevitable response by workers to these attacks.”

Communist League candidates have spoken to some 900 people in seven hustings (election debates). They have also talked with hundreds of workers at factory gates and campaign tables in working-class neighborhoods as well as to college students. The public debates have featured candidates or representatives of the Labour Party, Conservative Party, Scottish Socialist Party, Green Party, Liberal Democrats, and the Communist League. Alistair Darling, member of Parliament and Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Labour government, took part in two of the hustings.

The immigration issue came to the center of the national debate leading up to the election. Leaders of the three main capitalist parties debated immigration at the final of three live TV debates April 29. Conservative leader David Cameron claimed “immigration was out of control these last few years” and “the Liberal Democrats would make it much, much worse.”

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Gulf Oil Rig Blast: Profit-Driven Human and Environmental Disaster. Speaker: Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 14, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

—CALENDAR—

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Malcolm X: Black Liberation & the Road to Workers Power. The Auburn Avenue Research Library, in collaboration with Atlanta Pathfinder Books, will host a community discussion and book signing on the maturation of Malcolm X as a global revolutionary. This event will feature Steve Clark, the editor of several collections of Malcolm’s speeches, published by Pathfinder Press. Thurs., May 27, 7 p.m. Auburn Avenue Research Library of American Culture and History. 101 Auburn Ave, NE. Tel.: (404) 730-4001, ext. 303.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Free Puerto Rican Political Prisoners Avelino González and Oscar López Rivera! Picket Line. Wed., May 26, 5:30 p.m. 26 Federal Plaza. Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall subway stop. Ausp.: ProLibertad. Tel.: (718) 601-4751.

Liberal Democrats say they would allow an amnesty for undocumented workers who have been in the country for 10 years. But Liberal Democrats leader Nicholas Clegg countered Cameron by arguing that the Conservative Party’s proposed immigration cap would not limit the number of European Union residents. Prime Minister and Labour Party leader Gordon Brown joined this British nationalist chorus by calling for limits on immigration in areas where sufficient “homegrown” workers are available to fill jobs.

Speaking before 500 people April 28 at a debate in Juniper Green, a middle-class neighborhood of Edinburgh, Bellamy said that defending immigrant rights, and using union power to do so, is vital for working people in forging unity in the battles ahead. Her comments were met with a hostile reaction from sections of the audience.

Gulf Coast oil spill poses social disaster

Continued from front page

an explosion.

Several workers report that the company was rushing to complete work so the well could be closed temporarily and the rig could be moved to another location. One of the final tasks was to pump concrete into the well before detaching from it. “The concrete work apparently did not achieve a complete seal, and natural gas started seeping into the well in the late stages, the lawyers said,” according to the *Times*. “But idling a rig to address such a problem can cost huge sums.”

The livelihood of hundreds of thousands is tied to the Gulf’s fishing industry. In 2008 fishing in Louisiana alone accounted for 44 percent of shrimp and 36 percent of oysters in the United States.

The expanding impact of the disaster on working people was brought home May 2 when the government closed the Gulf of Mexico to commercial and recreational fishing from Florida’s Pensacola Bay to the Mississippi River.

BP has been signing up fishermen, now out of work because of the oil spill,

‘Let’s give to the party and fight capitalism’

The Supporters Monthly Appeal raises funds to help finance the work of the Socialist Workers Party. Organizers have been working to increase the number of monthly contributors to more than 500. This week we begin a column featuring comments from new contributors on why they decided to start giving a regular monthly donation to the party’s work.

From Michael Hopp, a railroad worker and member of the United Transportation Union, in Chicago:

“A good friend who works on the railroad showed me a copy of the *Militant* last May. Then I read *Teamster Rebellion* and it transformed me. It showed me what it takes, what a party can do. If you have the right people, with the right program, this is what can happen.

“I’ve loaned my copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* to three or four other people on the job to read.

“It’s like now I have the right lenses on to see the world and understand



Militant/Pete Clifford

April 29 Edinburgh election debate. Left to right: Caroline Bellamy, Communist League candidate for Parliament; Gavin Corbett, representing Greens; Alistair Darling, sitting Labour MP and Chancellor of the Exchequer; Rev. Mike Frew.

for the cleanup work. The company had demanded that they sign a 17-page agreement, which includes waiving liability for BP for injuries sustained in the cleanup and enforcing a confidentiality clause. But lawyers representing the Louisiana workers forced the company to nullify these aspects of the contracts.

“A hurricane takes your house, and

it messes up the marsh and that, but it heals pretty quick,” fisherman Tracy Alfonso told AP. “But nobody knows what’s gonna happen with the oil.”

“It’s like a farmer that can’t grow a crop,” Alfonso said. “How long can you last without work, before they take your house and your car or whatever you work with?”

Vandals attack immigrant rights group

BY EDWIN FRUIT

AND CLAY DENNISON

SEATTLE—More than 50 organizations and individuals have spoken out against a vandalism attack on one of the organizations that was building the May 1 immigrant rights march here.

Volunteers picking up leaflets at the Washington Community Action Network offices on April 25 found that a marble-sized projectile had penetrated a plate glass window. One vehicle belonging to the immigrant rights group had slashed tires; another had foam plugging the tail pipe. Both vehicles had graffiti

marked “RaHoWa” and “88” on them.

The Web site of these markings shows they stand for the neo-Nazi group Racial Holy War; “88” represents “Heil Hitler.”

Will Pittz, executive director of the immigrant rights group, said the vandalism “won’t stop us from doing the work we have to do.” Dave Schmitz, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 21, sent a message saying, “We will not back down from the moral necessity of our time: fighting injustice in all its forms, including injustice against immigrants and the oppressed.”

what’s really going on. Many organizations collect money for charity. I say, let’s give to the party and fight capitalism. Let’s stop the source of the problem.”

From Elizabeth McKay-Campion in Seattle, a grocery store worker and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union:

“I first met the party a couple years ago. I’ve always been skeptical about the things we are taught about politics. Then when I saw Pathfinder books, it just hit me. This is what I was looking for.

“It’s made such a big difference being able to use what I’ve learned reading the *Militant*, attending Militant Labor Forums. I use it to talk with coworkers on the job. We used to be very divided at my store, now we’re more together, we work more as a unit, we see who the real enemy is. We’re organized.”

“I think it’s very important to contribute. I’m just glad to give. It’s so important to get this information out

there for people with everything that’s going on in the world.”

From a New York City deli worker originally from Mexico:

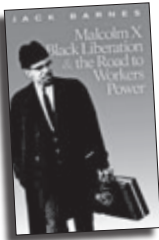
“I first saw the *Militant* last May when a truck driver who comes in all the time showed me a copy of it that had an article about Benito Juárez [the 19th century Mexican revolutionary democrat].

“It was the first time anyone in the country ever talked to me about politics. Since then I’ve been reading the paper, coming to Militant Labor Forums, reading the Pathfinder books, and learning by talking to people with lots of political experience.

“We need to do here what they did in Cuba. It’s not going to be easy, but it can be done. To overcome capitalism here will be an important thing for the whole world.”

Join us! Contact a distributor of the *Militant* listed on page 8.

—Don Mackle



Read, Sell, & Discuss

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, & the Road to Workers Power

New York I

More than 20 workers at a big meat-packing plant on Long Island have bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and subscriptions to the *Militant*. While reading the book, some have been eager to discuss it.

A worker originally from the Dominican Republic read a selection from the book's introduction in Spanish to several other workers during break: "The ruling families of the United States and other capitalist countries *dictate*, and will continue to dictate, the use of whatever degree of state power is necessary to defend and advance their own class interests" and "will continue to do so regardless of the toll on many hundreds of millions the world over."

The worker stopped and emphasized, "This is true."

He also said that Barack Obama was a capitalist politician, representing only the rich, like the politicians he and several other workers knew from the Dominican Republic. He said he had been reading about this in the new book.

—*Stu Singer*

New York II

Over the first two weeks on the job in two large factories here, communist workers have sold to coworkers three copies of the new Pathfinder book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, by Jack Barnes. Two copies were sold in a large pharmaceutical plant, and one in an electronic components plant, where two copies of *New International* no. 6 have also been sold, which features the article "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop."

This article describes the workers and farmers government led by Bishop that came to power through a revolution in March 1979 and its overthrow four years later by a counterrevolutionary faction within the ruling New Jewel Movement. The two coworkers who bought the *New International* are from Grenada. Both have expressed interest in the *Workers Power* book as well.

—*Maura DeLuca*

Chicago

"I was just thinking about Malcolm X," said a flight attendant and union activist who bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* along with a subscription to the *Militant* from a team going door to door in the Black community of Southside Chicago. "I need to read more about him. This will be my reading on my next flight."

She added, "The problem is working people don't know our own power. The rich can't grow rich without our labor; we produce everything for them."

Militant supporters have sold more than 10 books in this area by 95th and State Street, most of them with *Militant* subscriptions.

At the Latino Book and Family Festival here nine copies of the book were sold along with six subscriptions to the *Militant*.

Sales of the book have also included half a dozen on the job at three workplaces—a large meatpacking company, a smaller provisioning house, and a plastic injection molding plant where a *Militant* supporter whose first language is Spanish sold one each in English and Spanish.

—*Laura Anderson and John Hawkins*



Militant/Nick Castle

Middle school students examine *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* at May 1 rally in Los Angeles defending immigrant rights.

Greek gov't imposes severe cuts

Continued from front page

a long time. Now they realize their sacrifices were all for nothing."

The strike paralyzed transport and public services, hospitals, and banks.

After the bulk of the demonstration had broken up, firebombs thrown into a bank branch resulted in the deaths of three workers trapped inside. The Bank Workers Federation of Greece called for a 24-hour strike in their memory. The government is now exploiting the deaths to shift discussion off the antilabor measures it is carrying out.

In presenting the austerity measures May 2, Papaconstantinou argued that the choice facing the nation was "between collapse or salvation."

The measures cut, then freeze for three years, the wages of public sector workers, as well as eliminate their annual bonuses by the equivalent of about two months' pay. All other benefits are being reduced by 8 percent. In Greece one-third of all workers are employed by the government.

Papaconstantinou also announced

cuts to pension payments and a raise in the retirement age for all workers. There will be a second increase in the value-added tax to 23 percent from 21 percent, and a 10 percent tax increase on cigarettes, alcohol, and gasoline.

The new austerity measures aim to ensure that the ruling-class families in Greece, Germany, and France will continue to reap the massive profits from the bond holdings they consider their due.

German chancellor Angela Merkel, who initially resisted the loan plan, played a leading role in pushing through these measures by threatening not to contribute funds to the EU-IMF package if harsh austerity measures were not carried out.

Bobbis Misailides and Natasha Terlexis contributed to this article.

'Militant' subscription drive

Campaign to sell 'Workers Power' with 'Militant' subscriptions March 13–May 12 (week 7)				
Country	Books sold	Subs sold	Subs quota	Subs %
UNITED STATES				
New York	384	308	265	116%
Los Angeles	129	143	130	110%
Houston	72	64	65	98%
Seattle*	122	141	145	97%
San Francisco	123	138	150	92%
Miami	58	73	80	91%
Twin Cities, MN	83	140	155	90%
Philadelphia	75	79	90	88%
Chicago	109	104	120	87%
Boston	34	55	65	85%
Atlanta	96	118	140	84%
Washington, D.C.	109	87	110	79%
Des Moines, IA	65	93	125	74%
Total U.S.	1459	1543	1640	94%
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	91	85	90	94%
Edinburgh	20	25	30	83%
Total UK	111	110	120	92%
Canada	30	66	100	66%
New Zealand	31	62	65	95%
Australia	25	46	50	92%
Sweden	21	27	20	135%
Total	1677	1854	1995	93%
Should be		1750	2000	88%
* Raised quota twice				

Continued from front page

U.S. actions 333 introductory subscriptions were sold along with 247 copies of the book. Internationally, the drive is now at 1,854 subscriptions, 93 percent of the projected goal.

"While marching in New York City Erik Crawford looked through the book, then filled out his check for it and a *Militant* subscription," reports Sara Lobman. "He then tapped the shoulder of the woman in front of him, urging her to check this out. She also purchased both."

"Another young man stopped when he saw the photo in the book of women marching in Burkina Faso," continued Lobman. "'You've made my day,' he said, explaining that he was Burkinabè and had supported the revolutionary government there led by Thomas Sankara. He bought a *Militant* subscription, the *Workers Power* book, and then came by Pathfinder's literature table and purchased *Thomas Sankara Speaks*."

At the May 1 rally in Sydney, Australia, "three *Militant* subscriptions were sold to members of the Maritime Union of Australia, who had participated in the recent wharf stoppage over workplace safety to attend the funeral of a workmate killed in an accident at Patrick's Port Botany terminal," reports Ron Poulsen.

The drive ends May 12, so there's still time for you to join in the effort. Contact distributors listed on page 8.

\$79,025 raised in 'Militant' fund drive

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The *Militant* fund drive got a big push this week with supporters in Seattle raising their goal by \$850, bringing the international total pledged to \$111,150. Sixteen thousand dollars came in for the fund this week, making the total collected just over \$79,000.

We have one week left to collect outstanding pledges and win new contributions. Potential exists to expand support for the paper among working people inspired by the resurgence of the fight to legalize undocumented workers as shown by the May Day marches.

The drive ends May 12. The final scoreboard will be printed two issues from this one. If you haven't made a pledge yet, do so today! Send a check or money order payable to "The Militant" to 306 W. 37 Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

'Militant' fund drive March 13–May 12 (week 7)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Twin Cities, MN	\$7,000	\$6,275	90%
New York*	\$20,000	\$16,985	85%
San Francisco	\$14,000	\$11,175	80%
Houston*	\$2,800	\$2,205	79%
Seattle*	\$8,850	\$6,395	72%
Philadelphia	\$3,700	\$2,620	71%
Boston	\$3,500	\$2,460	70%
Des Moines, IA*	\$2,700	\$1,832	68%
Chicago	\$9,600	\$6,490	68%
Atlanta	\$7,800	\$4,745	61%
Washington, D.C.	\$6,500	\$3,010	46%
Miami	\$3,000	\$1,215	41%
Los Angeles	\$8,700	\$3,510	40%
Other		\$600	
Total U.S.	\$98,150	\$69,517	71%
Canada	\$6,650	\$4,532	68%
New Zealand	\$3,000	\$2,486	83%
Australia	\$1,500	\$1,550	103%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	\$300	\$155	52%
London	\$750	\$185	25%
Total UK	\$1,050	\$340	32%
Sweden	\$500	\$265	53%
France	\$300	\$335	112%
Total	\$111,150	\$79,025	71%
Should be	\$110,000	\$96,250	88%
* Raised quota			

Australia dockworkers protest deaths on the job

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia—Ports around Australia organized by the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) stopped work April 7 for an hour during the funeral of Nick Fanos, a 49-year-old stevedore. He was crushed to death March 28 by a container being loaded on a ship at Patrick's Port Botany terminal here.

About half the nearly 500 people attending his funeral were Port Botany stevedores, called wharfies here, who formed a union honor guard as the casket was driven away. In the past two months two wharfies, a miner, and a rail worker have been killed on the job in Australia.

While the ports were idled during the funeral, union meetings on the job discussed the urgent need for safer work practices on the waterfront.

Fanos was heading a gang on the *Vega Gotland* to fasten just-loaded containers with long metal bars onto the ship's deck. He was crushed instantly when a container being placed on deck by the portainer crane unexpectedly swung sideways.

A productivity bonus scheme, highly lucrative especially for some work gangs, and other speedup measures were introduced by Patrick in the wake of the government-assisted four-week national lockout of wharfies in 1998. Since then, there have been numerous "near misses" which could have been fatal.

Fanos's death, the first in 23 years at the site, stunned many workers and led to widespread ongoing discussions about safety. In its wake, the company moved to adopt a new "safety system" that further transfers legal responsibility for safety violations away from the bosses to the workers involved.

Five weeks earlier, another wharfie, Brad Gray, was hit and killed by a

heavy forklift load while working February 20 on a docked ship in Brisbane. There have been six deaths in the last seven years on Australian wharves.

A 45-year-old mine worker, Wayne Ross, was killed in Western Australia April 11 after his truck fell 60 feet down a shaft of the BHP Perseverance nickel mine, north of Kalgoorlie.

There have now been five fatalities in the past year at BHP Billiton mines in Australia. An official of the Australian Workers Union condemned "the chase for profits . . . at the expense of mineworkers' lives."

On April 13, a 59-year-old rail maintenance worker was killed when he was struck by a train in southern Sydney while working on the track.

In 2008–2009, 177 fatal injuries occurred in workplaces across the country, according to government statistics. This is up 18 percent from the previous year.

Doug Cooper, an MUA member who works at Patrick's Port Botany terminal, contributed to this article.

Cuban Five seminar held in Sweden



Militant/Dag Tirsén

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—A seminar here April 22 took up the case of five Cubans framed-up on conspiracy charges and unjustly jailed in the United States for more than 11 years. Speakers from left, Said Mahmoudi, professor of international law at Stockholm University; René Vazquez Díaz, member of executive committee of the Writers Union of Sweden; and Samson Thomas, spokesperson for the Eritrean Student Association, who chaired the meeting.

Vazquez Díaz detailed the violent attacks against Cuba organized from Miami ever since the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959. This was the reason the Cuban Five went to Miami to monitor anti-Cuban groups and inform Havana so further attacks could be stopped. In 2001 the five were sentenced to long prison terms, ranging from a double life term to 15 years.

Café Pan Africa and the Left Student Association sponsored the seminar.

—ANITA ÖSTLING

Cuba pays tribute to 'Amistad' slave revolt

BY BEN JOYCE

A replica of the *Amistad*, an early 19th century slave ship that in 1839 was taken over by the Africans it was transporting, docked in the port of Matanzas, Cuba, March 22, as part of a 10-day-long trip to the island.

The arrival of this Connecticut-based ship commemorated the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

The 18 crew members joined the welcoming ceremony, which was attended by prominent cultural figures, historians, artists, and government officials. Miguel Barnet, president of the Union of Cuban Writers and Artists, welcomed the visitors and thanked them for participating in the important commemoration.

"This is a very important dialogue,

because we know that there is a violent media campaign against Cuba," said Barnet, referring to accelerated efforts by the U.S. rulers and the capitalist media to slander the Cuban Revolution. "In spite of this unjust, rash, and boundless campaign, they have come to Matanzas." Barnet added that the trip and ceremony could represent "a crack" in the economic blockade imposed by the U.S. government on Cuba some five decades ago.

Three days after the Matanzas event, the ship sailed to Havana. A ceremony there was attended by prominent individuals, including Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly.

Gregory Belanger, president of the U.S.-based sponsoring organization Amistad America, addressed the audience. He thanked the Cuban government for preserving the history of the

slave trade, including being the only country in the region with a museum dedicated to the issue.

The original *Amistad* was the scene of an on-board slave revolt in 1839 that took place while en route from one Cuban port to another. Fifty-six slaves, mostly from Sierra Leone, took control of the ship and demanded to be taken back to Africa, but were fooled by the ship's navigator who set them on course to New York. The ship was captured off the coast of Long Island, New York, and the Africans were taken to Connecticut to be sold.

However, because the transatlantic slave trade had been banned by the U.S. Congress in 1808, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Africans had been illegally transported and ordered them freed. The 35 surviving Africans were returned to Africa in 1841.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 17, 1985

The U.S. trade embargo against Nicaragua is an act of war. Above and beyond the economic damage it will do is the political meaning of the embargo.

The U.S. ruling class is united behind the perspective of overthrowing Nicaragua's workers and peasants government through direct U.S. military intervention. The debate is over tactics and timing—how to limit the political price the U.S. government will pay internationally and here at home.

The immediate measures include a ban on U.S. exports to Nicaragua and on Nicaraguan imports to this country.

The declaration of the "national emergency" [by President Ronald Reagan] is the most important aspect of this new escalation of the war. It is designed to set the political framework for further steps leading to direct U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua.



May 16, 1960

"I don't know what provocation Castro has given us. Everything he has done has taken place in Cuba. How can that provoke the United States? He hasn't come over here and messed in American affairs like the corporations and the State Department are messing in Cuban affairs."

That was how Farrell Dobbs, Socialist Workers presidential nominee, replied to a television interviewer's query on Cuban "provocation" of the U.S. in a telecast here [San Diego] May 5.

Local NBC [interviewer Pat] Higgins also asked Dobbs if it wasn't true that the Cuban government has made the U.S. a "whipping boy."

"From what I've seen in Cuba," replied Dobbs, "the Cubans have very good cause for complaining about the treatment they are getting from the United States."



May 18, 1935

All the forces of the General Motors Corporation, the resources of the U.S. Department of Labor's ace "trouble shooter," a barrage from the Toledo newspapers threatening a permanent shutdown of the Chevrolet transmission plant, and unbelievably dirty trickery and brazen terrorization on the part of the representative of the American Federation of Labor bureaucracy were needed to brow-beat and trick the Toledo Chevrolet strikers into voting acceptance of compromise proposals.

Rejection advocated by the large group of militants among the strikers would have meant in all probability a nationwide strike against General Motors, one of the most terrific battles in the history of class struggle in the U.S. since the outcome would determine the whole issue of unionism in the basic industries.

NEW INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY

Issue number 13

Our Politics Start with the World

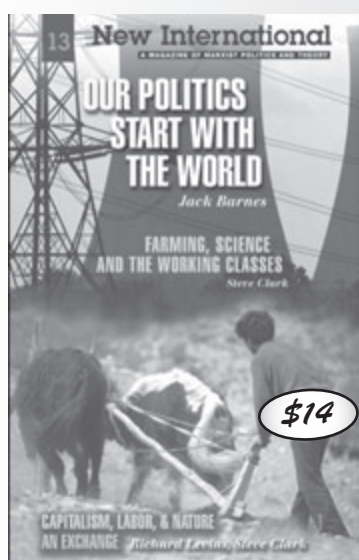
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Farming, Science, and
the Working Classes

by Steve Clark

Capitalism, Labor,
& Nature: An Exchange

Richard Levins, Steve Clark



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More union contingents join L.A. May Day rally

BY NAOMI CRAINE

LOS ANGELES—Tens of thousands of people poured into the streets for the May 1 march through downtown. The *Los Angeles Times* estimated the size at 60,000, while TV news stations reported 100,000. It was the largest May Day turnout here since 2006.

The marchers were overwhelmingly working class, with more union contingents than in recent actions. One of the largest was from the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Pablo López, a janitor and SEIU member, said, “There’s been a lot of discussion about this in the union. We don’t want the Arizona law to pass in other places.”

López said workers are already feeling the effect of stepped-up enforcement by the Barack Obama administration. The contractor he works for has been doing phone interviews with employees to verify their immigration status, and some have been fired. “Another compa-

ny fired 230 workers for not having papers,” he said. “That’s why we’re here.”

López’s daughter, Dalia, said a lot of her classmates at Maywood Academy High School were marching. “This is not just for Mexicans—it’s for all races to be treated equally,” she said. “There’s a family we know where the father was deported. That would be very scary.”

Lilia Guzman, a high school teacher who has been laid off for nearly a year, gave another example of what undocumented workers already face. “I know a man who is working hard, but every time he gets pulled over by the police for a little thing he has his car taken away because he can’t get a driver’s license. He has spent thousands of dollars buying cars, so that he can support his family.”

“This march was different from 2006,” University of California student Karen Aguilar said in an interview. “There were more African Americans



Militant/Naomi Craine

Unionists march in May Day demonstration for immigrant rights in Los Angeles

this time. This country works overtime to divide us, but at the end of the day, we have more in common to embrace than differences.”

Two young Black workers, one of whom said he was a former U.S. soldier, held a homemade sign that read, “Afro-American Supports Latino Brothers.”

In the last two weeks, as debate heated up over the anti-immigrant law in Arizona, the protest was heavily promoted in the Spanish-language media. Two days before the march, Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa gave a press conference calling for a boycott of Arizona during which he “urged people to march with white shirts, U.S. flags,

and trash bags in a peaceful demonstration of immigrants’ desires to work and participate in U.S. civic life,” the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

Marvin Tuche said he didn’t appreciate Villaraigosa’s claim to champion immigrant workers. “He’s throwing truckers into the streets!” he declared. Tuche explained he had been working as a port truck driver, but has had to park his truck since last December because of new regulations that don’t allow older trucks to enter the ports. The mayor has been a major supporter of the Clean Truck Program, which puts the burden of reducing pollution at the ports on the back of truck drivers.

Quarter million march May 1

Continued from front page
state law to be in the country “illegally.” Police are instructed to determine a person’s immigration status if there is “reasonable suspicion” that a person may be undocumented.

“I’ve worked here 13 years and I’m going to fight this law,” said Genaro Gonzalez, one of those who came early to the Phoenix protest. “We are hard-working people. A criminal is someone who robs and kills. Just because you don’t have papers doesn’t make you a criminal.”

“It’s wrong to separate families,” said Pat Martinez, who came to the demonstration with her three daughters. Her husband is now living in Mexico. “I have to be here to stand for what is right,” she said. There are an estimated 460,000 undocumented workers in Arizona. More than 100,000 workers without papers have left the state over the past two years due to a combination of rising unemployment and increased im-

migration enforcement.

Seeking to dampen the national outcry against SB 1070 as “racial profiling,” the Arizona state legislature amended the law on April 30. It now states that race cannot be considered when inquiring about a person’s immigration status and that police can ask for immigration papers only when they “stop, detain or arrest.”

The revised law, however, broadens the opportunity for victimization of immigrants as well as others by including city code violations such as speeding in a school zone as offenses that could lead to an investigation of a person’s immigration status.

Many signs carried by protesters addressed this. Some read, “I’m Mexican, pull me over!” “Driving while brown!” “Do I look reasonably suspicious?” and “What does illegal look like?”

On April 29 and 30, just one week after SB 1070 was passed, Joseph Arpaio,

Continued on page 9



Militant/Eric Simpson

May 1 rally in Salinas, California, organized by United Farm Workers.

Partial list of May Day actions in the U.S.			
City	Size	City	Size
Los Angeles	60,000	San Antonio, TX	1,000
Chicago	30,000	Miami	750
Dallas	20,000	Ann Arbor, MI	500
Milwaukee	15,000	Madison, WI	500
Phoenix	15,000	Salem, OR	500
Austin, TX	10,000	El Paso, TX	400
Seattle	10,000	Watsonville, CA	400
New York City	8,000	Charlotte, NC	300
Houston	7,000	Providence, RI	300
Atlanta	5,000	Reno, NV	300
Detroit	5,000	San Diego	300
Portland, OR	5,000	Hartford, CT	250
San Jose, CA	5,000	Hempstead, NY	250
Tucson, AZ	5,000	Des Moines, IA	200
Denver	3,000	Fort Collins, CO	200
Fresno, CA	3,000	Fremont, CA	200
Modesto, CA	3,000	Greensboro, NC	200
San Francisco	3,000	Kennett Square, PA	200
Santa Rosa, CA	3,000	Morristown, NJ	200
Las Vegas	2,500	New Orleans	200
Yakima, WA	2,500	Newark, NJ	200
Minneapolis	2,000	Wichita, KS	200
Oakland, CA	2,000	Bloomington, IL	150
St. Louis	2,000	New Haven, CT	150
Stockton, CA	2,000	Rio Grande Vly, TX	150
Washington, D.C.	2,000	Ames, IA	100
Boston	1,600	Buffalo, NY	100
Sacramento, CA	1,000	Montrose, CO	100
Salinas, CA	1,000	Philadelphia, PA	100

Quarter million in more than 100 cities

These estimates are taken from press accounts, police estimates, or our own correspondents’ counts. Where our correspondents were not present, the Militant used the lower or median estimate. The Militant was able to obtain estimates for about 60 of the more than 100 actions nationwide.

Malcolm X's evolution on Black nationalism

'Last bulwark of capitalism is America . . . You can't have capitalism without racism'

The following is the 17th in a series of excerpts the *Militant* is running from Pathfinder Press's latest book, *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. We encourage our readers to study, discuss, and help sell the book. The following is from a 1987 speech by Barnes printed under the title "Malcolm X: Revolutionary Leader of the Working Class." Copyright © 2009 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY JACK BARNES

What about Black nationalism? Malcolm's evolution here is easier to understand today than it was twenty-two years ago, because of what has been conquered in the U.S. working class since that time. Today we have a working class in this country that is different in significant ways from the one Malcolm knew. It is more reflective of the gains of the Black struggle of the 1950s and 1960s, both in composition and social and political attitudes. It is more international in makeup, bringing in experiences of struggles in other countries, a working class in which broader layers have been affected and inspired by advances of the world revolution.

When Malcolm began his final fifty weeks outside—and then beyond—the Nation, he considered himself a Black nationalist. That's unambiguous. Speaking of the launching of the Muslim Mosque, Inc., Malcolm said, "Our political philosophy will be black nationalism. Our economic and social philosophy will be black nationalism. Our cultural emphasis will be black nationalism." . . .

By the last months of Malcolm's life, however, he had come to a different conclusion. During the January 19, 1965, Toronto television interview mentioned earlier, Pierre Berton asked Malcolm whether he still advocated a Black state in North America. "No," Malcolm replied, "I believe in a society in which people can live like human beings on the basis of equality."

Malcolm had explained the reasons for his changing views on Black nationalism more fully the day before flying

up to Toronto, during an interview for the *Young Socialist* magazine on January 18, 1965. "How do you define Black nationalism, with which you have been identified?" I asked Malcolm. . . .

Malcolm said that when he had been in Ghana during the first of his trips to Africa in 1964, he had met with the Algerian ambassador there, "who is extremely militant and is a revolutionary in the true sense of the word (and has his credentials as such for having carried on a successful revolution against oppression in his country)." When they started talking about Black nationalism, Malcolm said, the ambassador responded, "Well, where did that leave him? Because he was white. He was an African, but he was Algerian, and to all appearances, he was a white man. And he said if I define my objective as the victory of Black nationalism, where does that leave him? Where does that leave revolutionaries in Morocco, Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania? So he showed me where I was alienating people who were true revolutionaries dedicated to overturning the system of exploitation that exists on this earth by any means necessary."

And that was the goal Malcolm now believed had to be fought for and achieved: "overturning the system of exploitation that exists on this earth by any means necessary." So, he told us, "I had to do a lot of thinking and reappraising of my definition of Black nationalism. Can we sum up the solution to the problems confronting our people as Black nationalism? And if you notice, I haven't been using the expression for several months." . . .

Malcolm made a similar point the very next day in the Toronto TV interview with Pierre Berton that I've referred to before. Malcolm said he was convinced the world was heading toward "a political showdown, or even a showdown between the economic systems that exist on this earth." And due to the colonial powers' attitude "of superiority toward the darker-skinned people," he said, the divisions in the world often do "almost boil down along racial lines." But then Malcolm went on:



"We are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter," Malcolm X said in February 1965. Above, Vietnamese youth from Chi Lang village. Banner reads: "Volunteer in anti-U.S. war of national salvation."

I believe that there will ultimately be a clash between the oppressed and those that do the oppressing. I believe that there will be a clash between those who want freedom, justice, and equality for everyone and those who want to continue the systems of exploitation. I believe that there will be that kind of clash, but I don't think that it will be based upon the color of the skin, as Elijah Muhammad had taught it.

Malcolm had also started thinking more and talking more about the ways that racism and national oppression are embedded in the very workings of the capitalist system. Speaking at a Militant Labor Forum in May 1964, right after returning from his first trip to Africa and the Middle East that year, Malcolm pointed to the example set by the Chinese and Cuban revolutions, where the capitalists and landlords had been expropriated. In contrast, he said, "The system in this country cannot produce freedom for an Afro-American. It is impossible for this system, this economic system, this political system, this social system, this system, period."

Malcolm returned to this point in the question period, when he was asked what political and social system he advocated. "I don't know," he replied. "But I'm flexible." And he repeated: "You can't have capitalism without racism." . . .

[I]n his last public talk, on February 18, three days prior to his assassination, Malcolm told an audience of 1,500 at Barnard College in New York City that "it is incorrect to classify the revolt of the Negro as simply a racial conflict of Black against white, or as a purely American problem." Rather, Malcolm said, "we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter." That's the revolution that must be won.

This evolution is important, because Malcolm took Black nationalism dead seriously. He recognized that Blacks in the United States—descendants, in their great majority, of Black Africans kidnapped and brought in bondage to be sold into chattel slavery in the New World—had been forged as a nationality over the century following the Civil War, emancipation, and then the rise and defeat of Radical Reconstruction.

In struggling against that oppression, Blacks had a right to national self-determination—all the way from their own forms of political organization, to control over schools and other institutions in their own neighborhoods, up to the establishment of an independent state on the soil of this country, if they became convinced conditions had reached the point that separation offered the only way forward—*We've had enough!*

Malcolm, however, had come to understand that there's a very important difference between recognizing the *right* to a separate state—anyone who doesn't can't help but be an apologist for American imperialism and its racist underpinnings—and *advocating* that course or *acting* on it. Because if in order to open the road to ending Black oppression, it is necessary to make a revolution to overturn the most powerful capitalist state on earth—as Malcolm was becoming convinced it was—then first you have to think seriously about the social forces and alliances necessary to accomplish such a historic task.

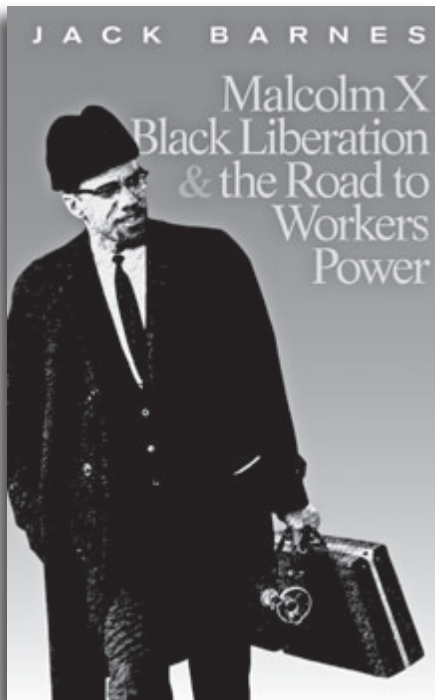
Malcolm's decision to stop referring to his political course as Black nationalism had nothing to do with a retreat from encouraging Blacks to take pride in their own heritage and history of struggle—to recognize their own worth as human beings, as the equals of all other human beings. It had nothing to do with denying the historical culpability of the ruling landowners and capitalists in the United States—who were overwhelmingly Caucasian and largely remain so today—for chattel slavery, national oppression, and exploitation. . . .

[W]hat Malcolm *did* change—and he did so openly and frankly—was his recognition that to eliminate racism in the United States and worldwide, you must overthrow the international social system that, in order to survive and expand, produces and reproduces that exploitation and oppression every minute of every day of every year. Malcolm came to understand that *this task* could not be accomplished without a movement reaching well beyond the United States and well beyond peoples of African origin—without a struggle involving all those with nothing to lose but their chains, all those organizing for revolutionary change, whatever their skin color or national origin.

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Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes



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World capitalism is ‘outlived and doomed system’

Printed below is an excerpt from Notebook of an Agitator, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. In writings that span political developments from the 1920s through the 1950s, James P. Cannon brings to life individuals and episodes from battles of the working-class movement against the employers and their cops and courts. Cannon was expelled from the Communist Party in 1928 for supporting Leon Trotsky's fight to continue V.I. Lenin's proletarian course. He was a founding leader of the Socialist Workers Party. Excerpted below is Cannon's keynote speech to the 13th National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party on July 1, 1948, which was simultaneously broadcast over a nationwide network by the American Broadcasting System. Copyright © 1958 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted with permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

American capitalism—the last solvent stronghold of an outlived and doomed world system—is trying to prop up the hated regimes of capitalists and kings and landlords by economic pressure and military force.

These are the two main elements of the present world crisis.

The Wall Street money-sharks, and the



Socialist Workers Party leader James P. Cannon speaking in New York, May 1, 1945. “Workers of the United States must go into politics, independent of all capitalist politics,” said Cannon in 1948 speech. “They must take power, establish a workers and farmers government.”

brass hats of Prussian mentality, are riding high in Washington these days. The masters of America, drunk with power, are threatening and terrifying the people of the world—seeking to dominate and enslave them—striving to transform the other countries of the world into colonies of the American empire.

Their program is a program of madness, and it is doomed to failure. The great majority of the peoples of the world do not want to be slaves of America. That is to their credit and we applaud them for it. The attempt to enslave them would be profitable only for the small group of monopolists—and the military caste, who dreams of careers as colonial administrators of conquered peoples.

But the criminal adventure would encounter such ferocious resistance that the American people at home would have to pay an enormous cost in living standards ruined by inflation, in the stamping out of democracy by military rule. And America's young sons would have to pay in misery, blood and death. The American people would be among the first victims of the insane campaign of American imperialism to conquer and enslave the world.

To avoid this calamity it is necessary now to show the people of the world the other America. For there are two Americas—and millions of the people already distinguish between them.

One is the America of the imperialists—of the little clique of capitalists,

landlords, and militarists who are threatening and terrifying the world. This is the America the people of the world hate and fear.

There is the other America—the America of the workers and farmers and the “little people.” They constitute the great majority of the people. They do the work of the country. They revere its old democratic traditions—its old record of friendship for the people of other lands, in their struggles against Kings and Despots—its generous asylum once freely granted to the oppressed.

This is the America which must and will solve the world crisis—by taking power out of the hands of the little clique of exploiters and parasites, and establishing a government of workers and farmers. The Workers' and Farmers' Government will immediately proceed to change things *fundamentally*—

Throw out the profit and rent hogs, and increase the living standards of the people who do the useful work.

Assure freedom and democratic rights to all, not forgetting those who are denied any semblance of them now.

Call back the truculent admirals from the seven seas—and ground the airplanes with their dangling bombs.

Hold out the hand of friendship and comradely help to the oppressed and hungry people in the world.

These people don't want to fight anybody. They only want to live. There are two billion people in the world—and

more than half of them don't get enough to eat. These people should be helped—not threatened, not driven back into slavery, under the social system that has kept half of them hungry all their lives.

It is well to recall now that America was born of revolution in 1776, and secured its unity as a nation through another revolution—the Civil War—which smashed the abomination of chattel slavery in the process. Our great, rich, wonderful country was once the light and the hope of the world. But our America has fallen into the hands of a small, selfish group, who are trying to dominate the world—and to set up a police state at home. . . .

The capitalist system has long outlived its usefulness. Capitalism offers no future to the people but depressions, imperialist wars, fascism, universal violence and a final plunge into barbarism.

To avoid such a fate, the workers of the United States must go into politics on their own account, independent of all capitalist politics. They must take power, establish a Workers' and Farmers' Government, and reorganize the economy of the country on a socialist basis. Socialist economy in the United States, eliminating capitalist wars, profits and waste, will be so productive as to ensure a rich living for all who are willing and able to work, and provide security and ample means for the aged and infirm.

We should also help the hungry people of the world to improve their standard of life. Socialist America will rapidly make that possible by helping them to secure their own freedom and develop their own economy. Eventually, the economy of the entire world will be united and planned on a socialist basis. This will bring universal peace—and undreamed of abundance for all people everywhere. The real upward march of humanity will begin.

The American working class can open up the way to this new world. They are the majority. They have the power in America. All that is necessary is for the working class to understand it—and to use it.

We firmly believe they will do so. We firmly believe the real America—the America of the workers, the people—will help save the world by saving herself.

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Immigrant rights strengthen labor

The quarter of a million people who demonstrated across the United States May 1 for legalization of undocumented workers set an important example for the labor movement. The photo on page 1 of this issue, showing marchers in Chicago behind a banner that reads “undocumented and unafraid,” captures the self-confidence and combative qualities needed in all of labor’s battles today.

There was significant union participation this year in cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York. That’s a sign of growing recognition that the fight for immigrant rights is a critical part of forging a workers movement capable of resisting the capitalists’ assaults.

The boss class is determined to make working people pay for the capitalist economic crisis. At the same time that the U.S. government is stepping up attacks on immigrant workers, the bosses are recklessly speeding up production, with disastrous results for workers’ lives and limbs. In just the last month we have witnessed the deaths of 32 coal miners in West Virginia and Kentucky, 11 workers in the oil rig explosion off the coast of Louisiana, and five refinery

workers in Washington State. The capitalist rulers are also going after workers’ social wage, including Social Security and Medicare.

The capitalists have always used immigrant labor. They need more workers competing against one another to drive down wages and maintain their profits. By painting immigrant workers as “criminals” and extending federal antiworker laws like they are doing in Arizona, the bosses seek to intimidate those without papers, maintain a super-exploited layer of workers who receive low pay and benefits, and discourage them from getting involved in unionization efforts.

That’s why joining the fight for legalizing undocumented immigrants strengthens the battle to unionize all workers and fight for jobs, safety, and against racist discrimination, as well as for ending U.S. wars abroad. It strengthens the understanding of why the working class needs to take political power and begin reorganizing society in the interests of the great majority.

Legalization for immigrant workers now! Stop the raids and deportations! Stop the firings of immigrant workers! Overturn Arizona law SB 1070!

Phoenix May Day

Continued from page 6

sheriff of Maricopa County, ordered 200 deputies and “posse volunteers” to sweep through working-class districts in west Phoenix. They arrested more than 100 people.

Arpaio, who is notorious for organizing raids of immigrant communities, boasts he has arrested 38,000 “illegal immigrants” over the past few years. Under a “human smuggling” law already on the books, immigrants have been charged with being “co-conspirators” in their own “smuggling.”

Puente, a group that has spearheaded resistance to Arpaio’s raids, organized the afternoon rally at the Capitol. Carlos Garcia of Puente chaired and was loudly cheered when he announced plans for another demonstration May 29.

“Puente plans to give a ‘shout out’ to activists in other cities to converge on Phoenix on May 29,” said Puente activist Sandra Castro.

High school students, many of whom joined school walkouts before and after SB 1070 was passed, marched in contingents around the Capitol and spoke at the rally, urging fellow students to join the struggle.

Some marchers expressed anger that deportations have increased over the last year. “Obama has expanded what Bush did,” said Christopher Martinez. “He has increased deportations and is strengthening the border.”

Mario Zuniga drove to the protest with two carloads of students from the University of California, San Diego. He carried a sign saying, “SB 1070 is more than misguided,” referring to Obama’s characterization of the law. He said students at UC San Diego organized a rally on campus as soon as they heard about the law.

In the evening, thousands of new participants, many just coming off work, poured into the Capitol grounds. Protesters, energized by the reinforcements, lined nearby streets, waving signs and cheering as passing cars honked in solidarity. Thousands more continued to march around the Capitol building chanting slogans. As the demonstration finally drew to a close, groups could be heard blocks away chanting, “*Si se puede!*” as they walked to their cars.

May Day 2006, a nationwide strike

On May Day 2006, 2 million people mobilized to press for legalization of all immigrants, with many skipping work that day—the first nationwide political strike in U.S. history. In 2007 nearly 400,000 took to the streets on May 1 to continue the fight against stepped-up immigration raids and deportations. In 2008 and 2009, thousands joined May Day marches for immigration rights, but on a smaller scale.

Many of the marches this year, including New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, had sizeable union contingents.

Atlanta rally condemns ICE arrests



Militant/Maceo Dixon

Members of Latina sorority Lambda Theta Alpha took part in May Day march of some 5,000 around Atlanta State Capitol

BY JANICE LYNN

ATLANTA—More than 5,000 people rallied and marched around the State Capitol here May 1 chanting, “*Si se puede*” (yes we can) and “*Obama, escucha, estamos en la lucha*” (listen up Obama, we’re still fighting). A large banner on the stage read, “Mr. President Obama, It’s Not a Crime to be Brown.”

The day before the demonstration, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced its agents had arrested 596 immigrants with “criminal records” during a three-day sweep across nine southeastern states and Puerto Rico, including 232 in Georgia. Dubbed, “Operation Cross Check,” this was the largest raid of its kind in this region.

Among the many handmade signs at the Atlanta protest were ones reading, “No 287(g),” referring to the federal program allowing local and state police to enforce immigration laws, which is implemented in several Atlanta-area counties.

Dozens of students from the Latina sorority Lambda Theta Alpha mobilized to attend the rally and carried signs that read, “Education, Not Deportation” and “I march for my sorority sister.” The signs referred to Jessica Colotl, a senior at Kennesaw State University in suburban Atlanta, who was stopped and detained March 30 for a minor traffic offense. After jailers at the Cobb County prison checked her immigration status she was handed over to ICE. Colotl came to the United States from Mexico as a child. “We are

all Jessica” was a popular chant in the crowd.

Sixteen-year-old Rocio Perez, originally from Mexico, carried a handmade sign reading, “We Are All Arizona.” She came with three others from her high school in nearby Clayton County. “This is an important cause, because this is our background. I believe everyone should have equal rights. There shouldn’t be any borders,” she told the *Militant*. One of her friends, Diante McFarland said he came “to help support my friends.”

Valentin Nava, a 23-year-old construction worker, said he attended the rally “to support legalization for all immigrants, for respect, and for reversing the law in Arizona.”

Leticia Martinez, a former sewing-machine operator, carried a sign that read, “13 Years is Enough!” That’s how long she has been waiting for her green card.

As the march wound its way through downtown Atlanta, many Black workers cheered and waved support, as did students at nearby Georgia State University.

Mushroom workers rally on May Day



Militant/Janet Post

KENNETT SQUARE, Pennsylvania—Two hundred supporters of immigrant rights marched here in the town and countryside May 1, including local mushroom workers, the majority of whom are from Mexico. The march was sponsored by the Kaolin Workers Union (KWU) and El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas, a farm worker support committee. Workers represented by KWU are fighting for a contract with yearly wage increases and a clause that requires contract workers to join the union after 60 days. Speakers included Walter Hudson, organizer of an upcoming march on May 15 in nearby Penns Grove, New Jersey, against the police killing in March of Moshowon Leach, a Black worker.

—JANET POST